

In the claims:

Claims 1-6, 10, 11, 25, 28-32, 35, 36, 48 and 49 are pending. Please amend claim 4 and add new dependent claims 50 and 51 as follows. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 25, 28-32, 35, 36, 48 and 49 are unchanged at this time.

1. (Previously submitted) A method for automatically providing enhanced and secure access to a group of users initiated by a non-technically trained user on a computer network without intervention of information systems personnel, the method comprising the steps of:

- 1) receiving a request from a non-technically trained user of a visitor based network (VBN) to establish a group of users in the VBN, the request including a group identifier which includes a group name and password provided by the user and identifies the group;
 - 2) configuring, in response to the request, a network infrastructure of the VBN to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel;
 - 3) allowing other non-technically trained users of the VBN to join the group by using the group name and password;
 - 4) further configuring the network infrastructure of the VBN to support the joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and
 - 5) dissolving the group based on predetermined rules including a predetermined rule to dissolve the group at expiry of a predetermined period,
- wherein the step of further configuring the network infrastructure includes the step of configuring a switch port that a joining user is connected to with a VLAN associated with the group.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the group of users is composed of one or more users.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the network infrastructure includes a physical local area network.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of configuring a network includes the step of establishing [a] the virtual local area network (VLAN) on a physical local area network.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of configuring a network infrastructure includes the step of configuring switches that are IEEE802.1Q compliant.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of configuring switches includes a use of Q-tag.

7 - 9 (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of dissolving the group includes revoking the group identifier.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of dissolving further includes the step of returning ports of switches supporting a VLAN associated with the dissolved group to a default state and removing all references to the VLAN associated with the dissolved group from the switches.

12 - 24 (Cancelled)

25. (Previously submitted) A computer readable medium containing computer instructions for executing in a computer of a method for automatically providing enhanced and secure access to a group of users initiated by a non-technically trained user on a computer network without intervention of information systems personnel, the method comprising the steps of:

1) receiving a request from a non-technically trained user of a visitor based network (VBN) to establish a group of users in the VBN, the request including

a group identifier which includes a group name and password provided by the user and identifies the group;

2) configuring a network infrastructure of the VBN to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel;

3) allowing other non-technically trained users of the VBN to join the group by using the group name and password;

4) further configuring the network infrastructure of the VBN to support the joining users without intervention of information systems personnel; and

5) dissolving the group based on predetermined rules including a predetermined rule to dissolve the group at expiry of a predetermined period,

wherein the step of further configuring the network infrastructure includes the step of configuring a switch port that a joining user is connected to with a VLAN associated with the group.

26 - 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Previously submitted) A server to provide enhanced and secure access to a group of users initiated by a non-technically trained user on a computer network without intervention of information systems personnel, the server comprising:

1) a registration module to receive from a non-technically trained user of a visitor based network (VBN) a request to create a group of users in the VBN, the request including a group identifier which includes a group name and password provided by the user and identifies a group of users, and to receive from other non-technically trained users of the VBN a request to join the group using the group name and password;

2) a registration driver to register the user and the other users to access the group of users, assign the group of users and maintain registration information and state information of a network infrastructure of the VBN associated with the group of users according to the group identifier in response to the requests from the user without intervention of information systems personnel, and to dissolve the group

based on predetermined rules including a predetermined rule to dissolve the group at expiry of a predetermined period;

3) a module to assign VLAN tags to the group based on registration status; and

4) a packet driver module to insert/remove VLAN tags from packets based on the registration status,

5) a switch commander for configuring a network infrastructure of the VBN to support the group without intervention of information systems personnel in response to the request for creating the group of users, and configuring a switch port that a joining user is connected to with a VLAN associated with the group.

29. (Original) The server of claim 28 wherein the VLAN tags are Q-tags of IEEE802.1Q .

30. (Original) The server of claim 28 wherein the state information of a network infrastructure is information on the switches that are IEEE802.1Q compliant.

31. (Original) The server of claim 28 wherein the module to construct VLAN tags comprises the SNMP module.

32. (Original) The server of claim 28 wherein the module further comprises a web based user interface.

33 -34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) The server of claim 28 wherein the registration module further receives from the user a request for showing information associated with the group of users.

36. (Previously presented) The server of claim 28 wherein the registration module further receives from the user a request for deleting the group of users.

37 - 47 (Cancelled)

48. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein
the receiving step receives the request including a usage period provided by
the user; and
the dissolving step dissolves the group when the usage period expires.

49. (Previously presented) The server as claimed in claim 28 wherein
the registration module receives the request including a usage period provided
by the user; and
the registration driver dissolves the group when the usage period expires.

50. (Currently added) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
automatically determining and assigning an Internet Protocol (IP) address for
the user connected on the VBN;
registering the user in association with addressing information including the
assigned IP address and a Media Access Control (MAC) address of the user; and
storing and maintaining the addressing information for the registered user.

51. (Currently added) The server of claim 28, wherein the registration module
automatically determines and assigns an Internet Protocol (IP) address for the user
connected on the VBN, and registers the user in association with addressing
information including the assigned IP address and a Media Access Control (MAC)
address of the user.